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Saturday, January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Please do whatever you can to help expedite a settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. This nearly four-year-old case has produced little, but controversy. There is now, as you know, a settlement agreement that has been preliminarily accepted by the major parties and the court. This agreement fairly balances the concerns of the parties and offers a fair solution to the dispute.

In return for retaining its corporate integrity, Microsoft has agreed to adopt certain practices, which will render it more vulnerable to its competitors. It has, in fact, agreed to help raise its competitors to its own level of play. For example, Microsoft will now invite competition by configuring its Windows platforms to easily incorporate non-Windows software. Microsoft will now offer computer manufacturers licensing agreements without a condition of Windows software exclusivity. Microsoft has even promised to disclose to competitors certain internal Windows interfaces. In other words, Microsoft has agreed to encourage the industry to catch up with itself.

These concessions and this change in philosophy will inure to the benefit of the industry and the public. Please support this settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Stark". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "Stark".

Jerry Stark

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